

If you are unwilling to pursue this course, would you be willing to meet the Whigs and Americans of the Pee Dee country in mass meeting, and address them on the issues of the present canvass.

If it will not subject you to inconvenience, please answer this communication, and address your letter to Wadesboro'.

Pardon the liberty I have taken of writing you this letter. My excuse is the deep interest I feel in the result [of the] present canvass.

*Notes for a Speech.*<sup>15</sup>

A.

1856.

1. Duty of old Whigs—No necessity for Whig Convention, since the nomination of Fillmore—The case would have been diff't if Geo. Low, or any incompetent man had been selected by the Americans—

2. Assertion of democrats at every Presidential election since 1836 that slave property was in danger from the election of the Whig Candidate. Van Buren better friend of slavery than White or Harrison—Polk better than Clay—Oregon Bill—Cass than Taylor—Nicholson<sup>16</sup> letter read two ways—didn't vote for Fugitive slave law Why? Pierce than Scott—While the South was cajoled with this story into voting for Pierce, he got nearly the whole Northern free soil vote. This evident from his great majority there, then, and lean support now. Like the jointed snake they fall to pieces, after every Presidential election and can't cooperate in measures, but when a Presidential election is about come on, the fragments unite for a new division of spoils. Witness the Van Burens Dix &c—

The democratic party which elected Pierce in 1852, contributed more to the Black Rep. F. P. Blair than the Whigs. Hamlin

<sup>15</sup> As is evident this is a very unfinished outline for a political speech. It is, however, interesting as indicative of Graham's thinking at the time and also of his approach to a speech.

<sup>16</sup> Alfred Osborn Pope Nicholson (1808-1876), of Tennessee, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, who began the study of medicine and then turned to law, editor in Columbia and then of the *Union* in Nashville, state legislator, Democratic United States Senator, 1841-1843, 1857-1861, chancellor, 1845-1851, president of the state bank, 1846-1847, editor of the *Washington Union*, 1853-1856, advocate of the Compromise of 1850. He was expelled from the Senate in 1861 for disloyalty, and was twice arrested and imprisoned. After the war he was a delegate to the Convention of 1870, and chief justice, 1870-1876. The letter referred to was written by Lewis Cass in reply to an open letter addressed by Nicholson to the presidential candidates of 1848.